

COMMENTS

Applicant has added the word “single” to Claim 23 to conform to Claims 46 and 47. Applicant has also corrected the word “plain” to “plane” in Claims 28, 29, 38, 42, and 43.

Claims 44 and 45 were withdrawn from consideration because they “are not directed to a HMD or DMD.” These claims are intended to be directed to an HMD and have now been amended to make that explicit. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider them with the remaining claims.

Claims 23 to 43 and 46 to 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Cobb et al. (hereinafter “Cobb”). The Cobb patent describes an optical arrangement that uses ball lenses to overcome the problems of spherical aberration that are associated with the use of spherical mirrors in the design of an HMD.

The Cobb patent does not disclose the use of a light source, as is required by all of Applicant’s claims. While the Examiner refers to column 4, lines 5 to 45, of Cobb as disclosing a light source, Applicant respectfully submits that Cobb does not disclose a light source. What Cobb actually discloses is “an image generator” (column 4, line 5). The “image generator” is not a light source. If the Examiner will refer to column 6, lines 25 and 26, of Cobb, he will see that “image generator 70” can be a “personal computer or other digitally controlled device for electronic image processing.” That is not a light source. Applicant’s claims not only require a light source, but Claims 24, 46, and 47 require two light sources.

The Cobb patent is for an HMD design that uses two display devices (one for each eye). Applicant's claims require only one digital micro-mirror device and Applicant's Claims 46 and 47 specifically require a "single digital micro-mirror device." In Applicant's invention, two images (which can be different) are generated from one DMD. (Applicant's Claim 23 referred to "a" digital micro-mirror device, but did not use the word "single." However, Applicant has now amended Claim 23 by inserting the word "single" after "a" so that Claim 23 is now the same in this respect as Claims 46 and 47.) Cobb's device does not incorporate any system or means for generating two different images from a single display device, as Applicant's device does.

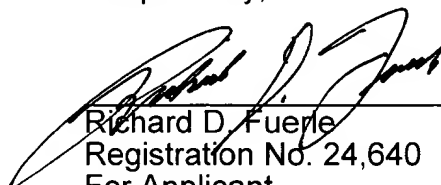
While it is true, as the Examiner notes, that a micro mirror device is mentioned at the end of the Cobb patent (column 9, lines 64 to 67) as an alternative embodiment, there is no description of how it would be used in the Cobb device. It is not possible to simply stick a DMD into the Cobb device and expect it to work. The use of micro mirror devices is optically extremely complicated and one cannot simply "drop in" a micro mirror device as a replacement for other display devices. For one thing, Cobb does not disclose the use of a light source and a DMD will not work without a light source. And, in addition to the light source, optics associated with the light source and with focusing and transmitting the reflections from the DMD must also be present and there is no provision for any of that in Cobb. Thus, it cannot be fairly said that Cobb discloses the use of a DMD.

In addition, if two micro mirror devices were used in the Cobb design instead of

his two display devices, they still would not be operating in the configuration required by Applicant's claims, which require that a DMD (or "a single" DMD) must produce two images, such that light reflected from the DMD in a first state enters one eye and light reflected from the DMD in a second state enters the other eye. Applicant's device requires two light sources to achieve the desired result. Cobb does not use any light source. Thus, Cobb uses two display devices and no light source and Applicant uses one DMD and two light sources.

All of the claims are believed to be allowable over the Cobb patent and reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims are therefore requested. Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at (716) 774-0091 to resolve and remaining problems.

Respectfully,



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